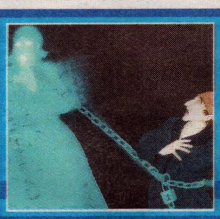
No 640 December 16, 2001



# THE FUNDAY TIMES



**A story retold**
Meet the director behind the lavish new animated Christmas Carol
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**Festive Faye!**
Catch up with Faye and the rest of Steps for a Christmas TV treat
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**Mucking out**
Is farming fun? Join the school kids who found out for themselves.
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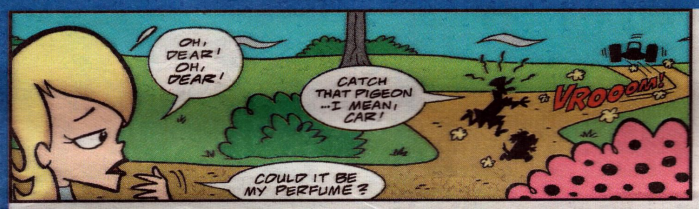
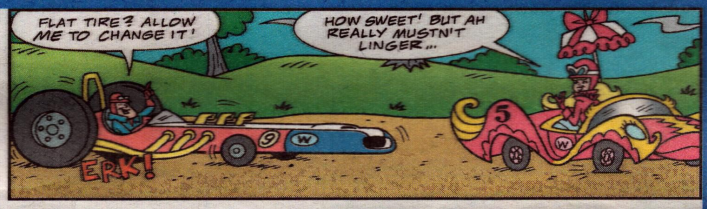
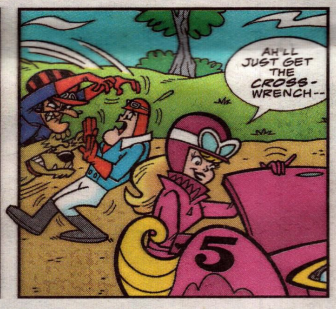
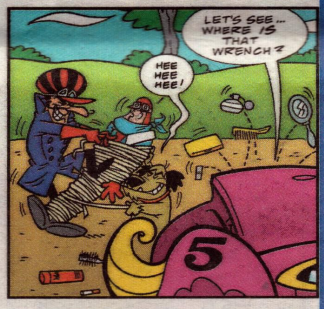
## Wacky Races in "DRIVE AND DRIVEABILITY"

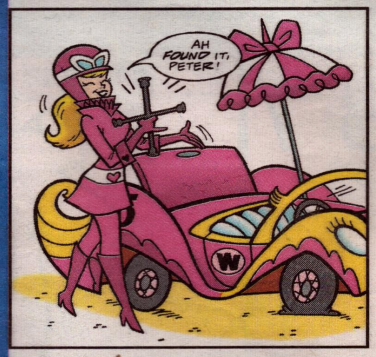
**The story so far –** Dastardly and Muttley need to steal a car to continue the race and Peter Perfect looks a likely victim!

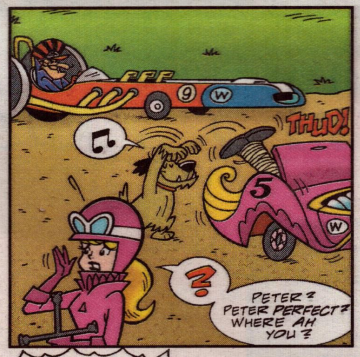


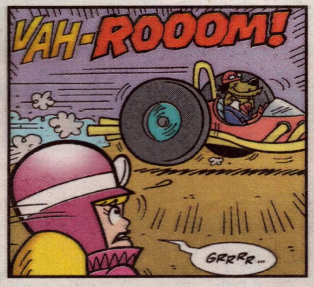





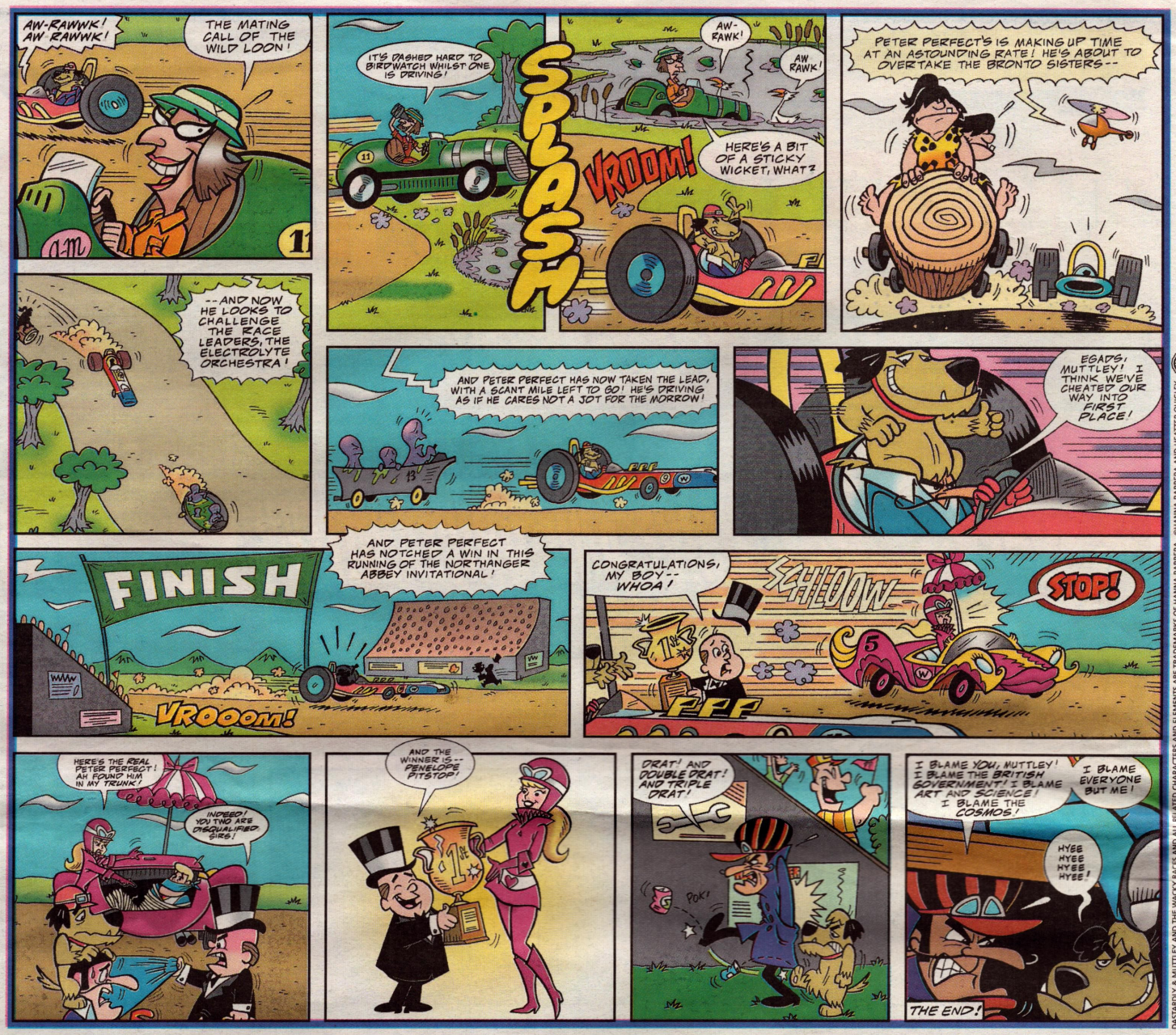



More inside




DASTARDLY & MUTTLEY AND THE WACKY RACES AND ALL RELATED CHARACTERS AND ELEMENTS ARE TRADEMARKS OF HANNA-BARBERA ©HANNA-BARBERA AND HEATTER-QUIGLEY (S01)

# CHRISTMAS WITH S CLUB 7

**FUNDAY 7** Countdown to Christmas with S Club – this week it's Paul!

*Hi Paul, are you and Hannah planning to spend Christmas Day together?*
Probably not. She'll be with her family in Great Yarmouth and I'll be at home in St Alban's. But I'll definitely be calling Hannah to wish her a happy Christmas.

*What are you going to buy her?*
I haven't got a clue! I think she's got everything. I'd better start asking some questions.

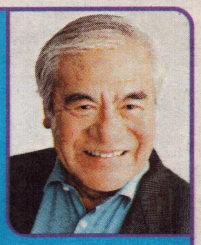
*What's your favourite season?*
Winter, actually. It's nice when you can wrap up warm and get cosy in front of an open fire. I don't mind it when we're in America in the heat, but I much prefer to be at home.

*Don't you get bored sitting around on Christmas Day?*
Well, Christmas Day is as much fun as you make it. It can be boring, I suppose, but when I get fed up at home I'll pop round to a friend's house – usually when there's nothing good on the telly.

*Are there any programmes that are guaranteed to make you get up and flee the house then?*
I like action-packed entertainment, so if it gets too dull I'll probably go out.

# FUNDAY NEWS

## Bah, humbug!



If you have yet to get into the festive spirit, make sure you catch the recently released Christmas Carol – The Movie. An animated flick adapted from the original story written by Charles Dickens in 1843, the story follows the life of London's meanest debt-collector, Ebeneezer Scrooge, who hates Christmas. Jimmy Murakami, the film's director, made sure that the film stuck closely to Dickens' famous novel. "We did a lot of research into what London was like back them," Jimmy says. "The movie is all hand-drawn, which gives it an old-fashioned feel and we don't use any bright colours – the Victorians didn't have electricity!" In the film, two mice are Scrooge's only friends. "We put them in there to lighten things up a little," Jimmy explains. "We didn't want it to be too dark because it's a great Christmas movie for all the family."

PICTURE: TIM CUFF/APEX. ©PATHE 2001

## Top Cat

SM:TV Live presenter Cat Deeley beat her fellow presenters Ant & Dec to win the Best Presenter trophy at the British Academy Children's Film & Television Awards. Cat even shed a few tears when she accepted her award from Pop Idol villain, Simon Cowell, while Ant & Dec were the first to congratulate their pal. Other winners included Shrek, which won Best Feature Film and Grange Hill which received a special award for its outstanding creative contribution to television.

## Model father

Bryan Fullerton, from Liverpool, is a huge fan of Christmas – and to prove it he has built a 10m Santa out of chicken wire and fibreglass! The 64-year-old has spent 10 months building the massive model which had to be winched into place by a crane. Bryan's home also boasts a festive grotto, a wishing well and a throne for Bryan to sit on while wearing his Santa outfit. Last year, almost 20,000 kids visited his home over Christmas. "I spend my days working towards December 25 just like the real Father Christmas," laughs Bryan.

## Long journey home

An eight-month-old hooded seal, named Cleopatra, will complete the final leg of an epic journey today. She was found off the coast of Malaga in Spain [more than 4,828km from home] two months ago – the furthest south a hooded seal pup has ever ventured. She was starving and was taken to a turtle sanctuary to fatten up before flying to Britain. Here she travelled by car to the National Seal Sanctuary in Gweek, Cornwall, where she spent three weeks recovering. Mark Steward, curator of mammals at the sanctuary says: "She was lively and alert when she reached us. She had put on weight and we put her in an outdoor pool which gave her space to swim around." Cleo will take a boat ride to the Shetland Islands, off the north east coast of Scotland, where she will be released today. Experts hope that she'll swim north to join a colony of seals in the Arctic.

FUNDAY

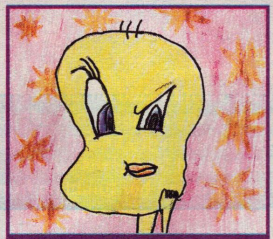
# TOP DRAW

Welcome to our section for budding Funday artists and scribblers! If you've got a cool drawing or painting you want to show off, send it to: The Funday Times, PO Box 5073, Leighton Buzzard LU7 7GX

## MAKING GREATS

Hasbro has a great range of creative kits for artists who like to use their hands ... as well as their imaginations. Create amazing designs with Spirograph, cook up yummy treats with the Chocolate Factory, make top tiles with Discovering Mosaics, unwrap a mummy with Egyptian Mystery or get sticking with the Super Sticker Factory! The creator of the star picture will receive all these great Hasbro kits.

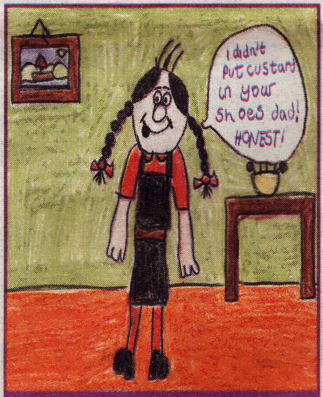
The other Top Draw artists will receive Spirograph and Discovering Mosaics.



Flora Scott, 8, Chedworth

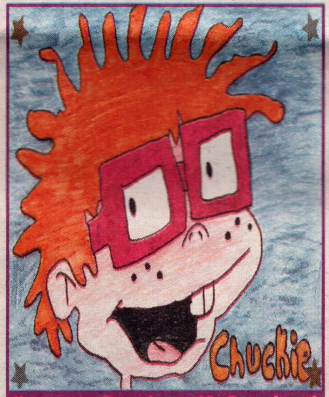
Claire Horgan, Inniscarra, Ireland

Richard Ingram, 13, Great Witley




Sienna Piccioni, 10, Camden

Krystina Smith, 14, Bishop's Stortford




Francesca Dunnigan, 12, Gateshead

## DAGSY DOG

Woof, woof! Got any pet problems? Then get in touch with me at the address below!

I have a male rabbit and a male guinea-pig. There are two parts to our garden and the guinea-pig [called Slasher] likes exploring but when he goes into the other half of the garden the rabbit [called Basher] chases him away. To get Basher back, Slasher takes his food away. How can I stop these things from happening?

**Chloe Wragg, 7, Sittingbourne**

Male rabbits can become quite aggressive and territorial as they mature. Basher considers that part of the garden to be his and the guinea pig is invading when he enters it. To try to prevent this, play with both animals in a neutral part of the garden and feed them together. If the aggression gets worse or they start attacking each other then you will either have to keep them apart or you could consider getting the rabbit neutered.

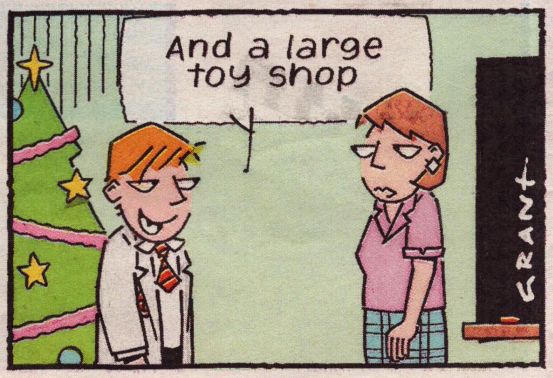
Advice by Blue Cross vet Mark Bossley

If you have a question for me or you want to send in a cool fact, write to, **The Funday Times, Dagsy Dog, PO Box 495, London E98 1ST**
You can now e-mail your pet problems to **dagsy.dog@sunday-times.co.uk**

The Blue Cross, one of Britain's oldest animal welfare charities, has four animal hospitals, 11 adoption centres, and two equine centres. Last year the charity found homes for thousands of animals and treated more than 50,000 pets at its hospitals.

ILLUSTRATIONS: PAUL CRAMMICK

## Jarvis




©KNIGHT FEATURES

# STEPS ON SHOW

Exclusive!

**Funday joins Steps for an exclusive chat on the set of their Sky Box Office promotional video**

Lovely Lisa from Steps has a confession to make. She may look relaxed and happy swinging over the crowd on the band's latest tour, but the truth is ... she's terrified of heights!

During her solo number [a song that she wrote called Bittersweet] Lisa sits on a swing above the heads of everyone in the audience but admits: "I'm really scared of heights, so I get nervous every night before I do that number." But neither Lisa nor the thousands of Steps fans who go along to their biggest and best tour yet need worry about her tumbling from the flying chair – she's safely strapped in.

Lisa and the rest of the Steps have been wowing capacity crowds since the Gold Greatest Hits Tour kicked off in Sheffield last month, but don't worry if you couldn't get a ticket. The magnificent show will be broadcast live on Sky Box Office next week and there'll also be an exclusive interview and a look behind the scenes. Funday caught up with the band when they popped into the Sky studios, but H admits they are all feeling a bit tired.

"It's our hardest tour to date," he says. "We're doing more shows than ever, sometimes twice in the same day, and each show lasts two hours – which is half an hour longer than usual. It's like doing two hours' worth of aerobics in one go. So, we're all tired out but we're still having loads of fun."

On the Steps tour last Christmas the supergroup sang loads of festive faves but this year it's a look back at all their greatest hits – and to match the top tunes there are lots of top costumes too. In fact, backstage, things can get pretty hectic, with quick changes galore.

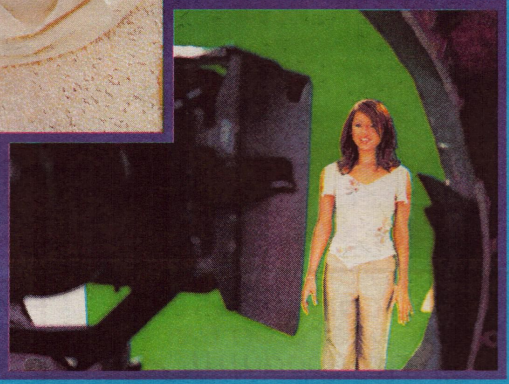
"There's always someone running around somewhere trying to find something they've lost," laughs Lee. "And often it seems like you've only got two seconds to whip off your clothes and put on the next costume before dashing back on stage."

Lisa and H still find time to play a few pranks – like popping into the dancers' dressing rooms and swapping their underwear around – but they're all great mates, sitting down to meals together. And Claire says she's looking forward to Christmas dinner, which the tour caterers will be serving before the last show on December 22.

"I love Christmas pudding with ice-cream, a bit of cream and maybe some brandy sauce," she admits, licking her lips.

"I really like brussel sprouts," adds Faye. But do they give her wind?

"Oh my god, I'm not telling you that," she giggles. One question that people who see the show keep asking is – who is under those giant Steps heads during the 5-6-7-8 routine? "Maybe I'm on stage but not under my own head," Lisa teases, but then Claire adds: "I'm not under the head, no way. It's too heavy. I can't even lift it."



While the song's playing, Claire is probably off Christmas shopping. Last year she filled a whole minibus with gifts and is planning to do lots more shopping on tour this year, too. "She doesn't know when to stop," Lee chuckles, before hinting that he'd like to receive lots of nice things for his new house. Claire says a holiday would be nice, Faye wants warm gloves for skiing, Lisa doesn't mind what she gets and H wants driving lessons.

"When?" asks Lee. "January," H yells. "Because that's when we'll finally get some time off."

Rushing back into the studio, Lee has a final word of advice for Funday readers. "Stay off the roads in January," he jokes. "H could be in your area!"

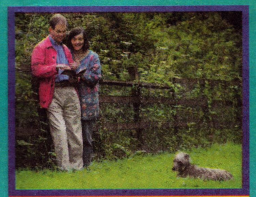
**Steps – Live In Your Living Room is on Sky Box Office on Saturday, December 22**

# FRESH AIR AND FUN

**Paul Wray spends a day in the country with Farms For City Children at Nethercott House, in Devon**

How many of us know the first thing about milking a cow? Well, after a week's crash course at Nethercott House, in Iddesleigh, you begin to understand all the hard work that goes into running a farm, plus you get to experience the sights, sounds and smells of the countryside!

**1** Nethercott House is one of three farms that make up Farms For City Children – a charity that enables youngsters from inner-city schools to experience and learn about rural life and the value of farming. This year has been a tough one for the farm, Nethercott was closed for seven months due to the foot and mouth epidemic.

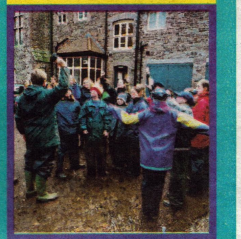


**2** The charity was founded by top children's writer Michael Morpurgo and his wife Clare. "There are about 35 to 40 children a week who come to Nethercott," Michael explains. "Altogether about 45,000 children have worked on the farm since it began." Michael believes the project gives youngsters responsibility and from that comes confidence and a sense of achievement. "For some of the children, I'm sure, they have a life-changing experience," adds the author. And they are often treated to a story by the top writer as well!

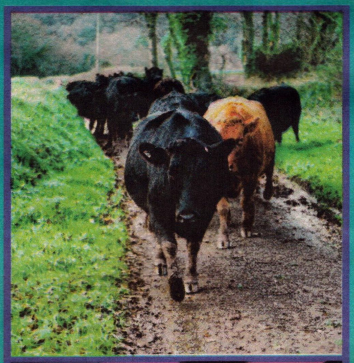
**3** During our visit, pupils from the Falmouth Community School, in Cornwall, are at Nethercott – but schools from London, Manchester, Birmingham, Cardiff and Stockton-on-Tees are all regular visitors too. Don't expect a holiday though. Everyone gets up at 7am ready to begin at 7.30am, and the work doesn't finish until 5pm ... unless you are milking the cows which means going out again at 6pm. "The children are usually very tired on Monday and Tuesday but after that they get into the farm routine," says Michael.

**4** Lunch has just finished and Hannah Burnard, 13, has the task of clearing the tables. "We are split into dormitory groups – Bridgetown, Burrow, Langlands, Parsonage, Torridge and Paradise," says Hannah. "They're named after the local farms, villages or rivers." After lunch – and after donning wellies and waterproofs – the kids are divided into three working groups, each with its own set of tasks.

**5** "So far I've milked the cows, cleaned the cow sheds, fed the chickens and collected their eggs and fetched the donkeys," 13-year-old Jack Mather tells us, as he awaits his task. As well as tending to the animals, other tasks include digging ditches, mending walls, picking potatoes, collecting wood or making apple juice. So, there's always plenty to do!

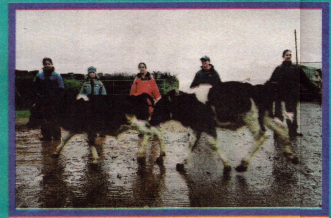


**6** Farmer David Ward and his son Simon show the first group how to move the heifers [young cows] from the field into nearby sheds for the winter. Half the group heads to the herd while the others stand guard at the road to make sure the cows walk in right direction. "What if a car comes along?" someone asks. "Don't worry, they usually stop when there's half a tonne of animal in front of them!" laughs David.



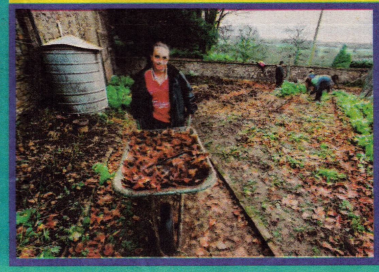
**7** The kids are surprised at how big the cows are but, thanks to some careful planning and top teamwork, the herd heads towards the sheds where the cattle will stay until April. Once the cows are in the shed, the group ensures the hungry herd has plenty of silage to eat. It's a job well done.

**8** The second working group from Falmouth Community School is mucking out the calf shed at Parsonage farm, owned by Graham Ward. There's a pungent pong in the air and everyone needs their wellies for this job! "All the poo goes in the slurry pit," reveals 12-year-old Gemma Crewes. "The pit's about two metres deep!"



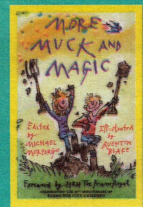
**9** Once the mess is removed, and a fresh bale of hay has been scattered on the shed floor, the children form a human corridor and the calves are herded from their holding shed back into their clean home.

**10** Meanwhile, the third working group has been busy at Nethercott removing leaves from the pathways and weeding the garden. Directing the group's progress is farm school manager Paul Garnham [above, right]. Although it looks barren in the winter, the garden produces cabbages, beans, sprouts, onions, garlic, courgettes, peas and leeks. "Well done everyone. You must have collected 30 wheelbarrows of leaves, maybe 40 or 50," says Paul.



**11** Paul's group also has to feed the turkeys, chickens and geese and check to see if they've laid any eggs before bedding them down for the night. "I'm scared of the turkeys," admits Gemma. "You have to keep an eye on them. If you turn your back on them they can attack you!"

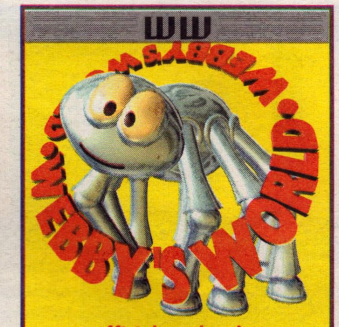
**12** The final task is to return the donkeys [Barnaby, Hebe and Purdey] and the horse [Bluebell] to the stables before night falls. Once that job is done it's time for everyone to relax, enjoy a hearty dinner and get some well-earned sleep ... until 7am the next morning when the work begins again!




Farms For City Children celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. To mark the anniversary, the More Muck And Magic story collection [Egmont, £4.99] has been published – and 10% of the proceeds go to the charity. To find out more about Farms For City Children call 01837 810573 or click on the website, www.farmsforcitychildren.co.uk

THE FUNDAY TIMES

PICTURES: JAN WILLMAN




**www.officialnorthpole.com**

If you're already excited about December 25, log on to this site and send yourself wild with festive fun. Find Santa and check out his logbook to see what he's noted down about your behaviour this year. Enjoy reading some top Christmas stories, play some festive games, make some yuletide crafts and e-mail Santa with your special requests.

**www.kidsdomain.com/holiday/xmas/food.html**

Everyone loves eating a bit more at this time of year – just look at Santa's tum for proof. This tasty site is crammed with scrumptious seasonal recipes, and even though it's mainly American food, you'll enjoy making [and eating] these goodies. Look out for the miniature gingerbread house, trifle and Rocky Road fudge. In short, get stuffed!

PICTURES: EPA

If you are a webhead and have discovered a great site, or have created one of your own, spin me a mail and tell me all about it on webby@sunday-times.co.uk

# FRESH!

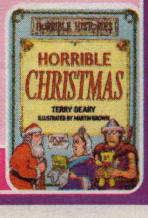
## CHRISTMAS CREATOR ★★★★★

You can create your own festive cheer with this seasonal CD-Rom. Christmas Creator costs just £9.99, yet is full of fantastic things – just like Santa's sack! It has more than 5,000 pieces of Christmas clipart and fonts, yummy seasonal recipes from around the world [as well as top cooking tips], a Ski-Doo X-Team Racing demo, Christmas Karaoke [lock your dad up for that one!] and a superb selection of Christmas wallpaper. How can you resist it?

**CD-ROM**

## HORRIBLE HISTORIES: HORRIBLE CHRISTMAS Terry Deary ★★★★★

Christmas isn't all it seems! There is a darker side to the festive season, and Horrible Christmas [£5.99] will reveal it. This hardback is full of gruesome facts and stories about Christmas. For example, did you know that in 1841, in Gateshead, everybody turned blue as a result of a cholera epidemic, which claimed 40 lives by Boxing Day? It also has loads of info on how traditions, such as crackers and trees, began




**BOOK**

## THE PUFFIN BOOK OF CHRISTMAS STORIES Edited by Wendy Cooling ★★★★★

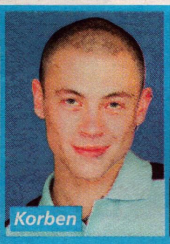
Yule love getting into the festive spirit with this cracking collection of 15 seasonal tales. Stuffed full of short stories, as well as extracts from well-known novels, the book [£4.99] opens with The Christmas Party taken from George Layton's A Northern Childhood [a tale about carol singing, school parties and revolting jelly]. It ends with Baboushka, a Russian fairy-tale about a house-proud woman who follows the three kings to Bethlehem in search of Jesus.

**BOOK**

FUNDAY

# BUZZ!

Laura


Korben

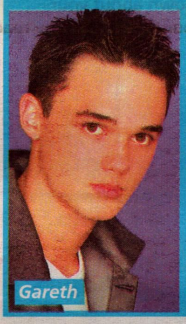
Jessica

Aaron

## THIS WEEK'S TOP TEN

**As Pop Idol enters its final phase, the remaining ten contestants are sharing a house as well as a dream. Buzz! caught up with the talented ten at their first press conference.**

Pop Idol's ten finalists – Gareth, Jessica, Korben, Laura, William, Zoe, Rik, Rosemary, Hayley and Aaron – strolled into the conference room at a London hotel last week and surprised the waiting journalists with their confidence and professionalism. One by one the would-be chart stars told the press why they each wanted to become a Pop Idol.


Gareth

It was the boys and not the girls who stood out as having what it takes to top the charts and coming up with the snappiest answers. Show-off Korben [who was described on TV by Simon Cowell as cocky and conceited] acted as though he was already a star. He was easily irritated during the conference, most notably by big Rik – and even answered questions that were not aimed at him!

Pop Idol viewers have seen Gareth Gates make great strides with his stammer during the shows so far. The bookies' favourite scored the biggest landslide victory in his heat and spoke confidently during his last appearance. Unfortunately, Gareth found the press conference a bit more intimidating and started off by saying: "This is very hard for me." Then, Gareth's stammer kicked in once again and he struggled to answer the two questions aimed at him. The shy student ended up burying his face in his hands on more than one occasion.

To the surprise of everyone at the conference, Jessica Garlick, who appeared to be the most relaxed girl in the room, admitted to liking Simon Cowell! "He kissed me," she laughed. In fact, not a single finalist had a bad word to say about the man who has been hailed as harder than Ann Robinson.

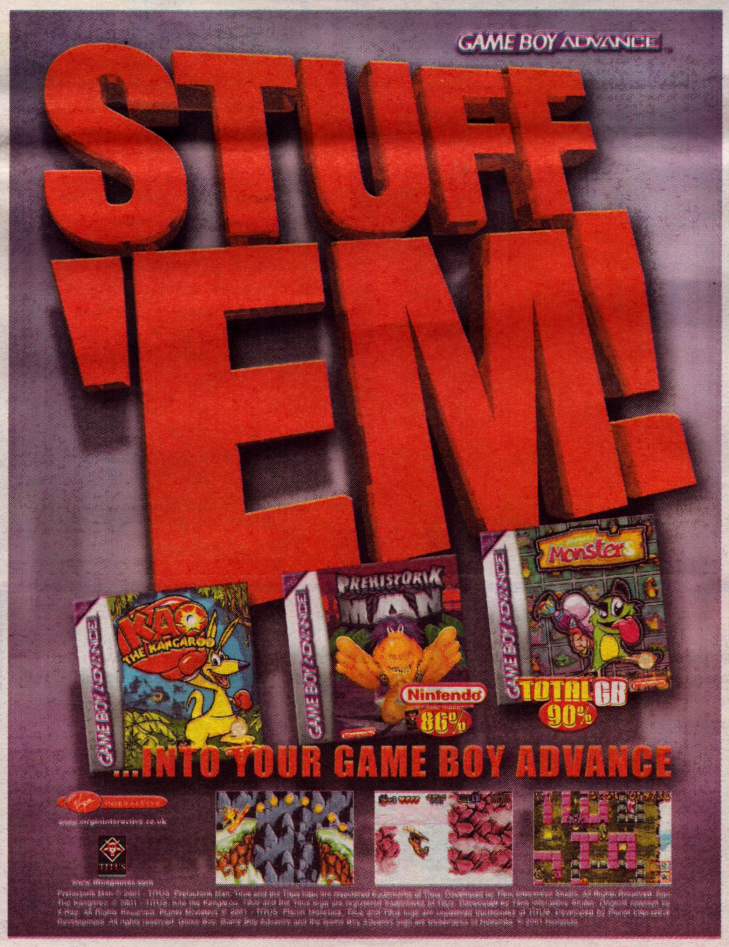
Hayley Evetts and Laura Doherty are both desperate to become famous. "I'm a real poser," Laura admitted. "When I cried when I was little my mum used to take a photograph of me and I'd shut up. Even if I was balling my eyes out it'd work!"

Hayley

From this weekend, Pop Idol gets ruthless. One contestant will be voted out by the public every Saturday night until February, when the final pair will come head-to-head in a showdown special.

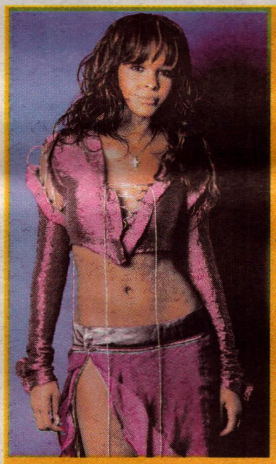
Visit www.itv.co.uk/popidol to get more pop-tastic facts including transmission times and gossip.

PICTURE: CARLTON



## SEASONAL SAM



**Samantha Mumba is all set to enjoy this Christmas after a packed year that has seen her film the movie The Time Machine [alongside Hollywood star Guy Pearce], tour with *NSYNC and appear on advertising hoardings for GAP. Still, for now she's concentrating on what she does best – producing fab records – with her hit single, the soulful ballad, Lately.**

**It's a change for the Irish songstress after her funky singles, Gotta Tell You, Body II Body, Baby Come On Over and Always Come Back To Your Love.**

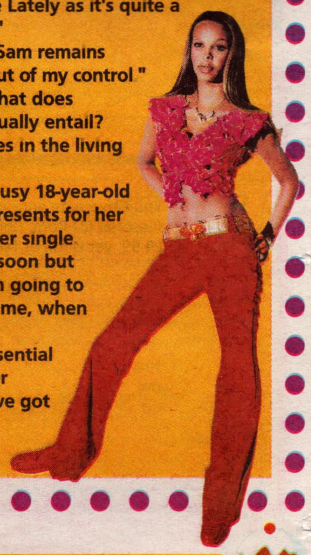
**"It's like any performer, you always release different types of music, you always do a ballad at some stage or another," Sam tells Buzz! "I thought this was a good time of year to release Lately as it's quite a Christmassy song – a nice slow ballad."**

**As for talk of a Christmas number one, Sam remains modest, "It's flattering, but it's totally out of my control."**

**Now that everyone's feeling festive, what does Christmas in the Mumba household usually entail? "Oh, turkey dinner, watching old movies in the living room, swapping presents – all that."**

**Before the big day itself, though, the busy 18-year-old has the daunting prospect of buying presents for her friends and families while promoting her single. "I'm going to try and get started on it soon but I keep on putting it off. As for what I'm going to get, I'm hoping something will just hit me, when I see it, I will just know," she muses.**

**And for the best place to find those essential presents, take Sam's advice. "Bluewater shopping centre in Kent. There you have got everything you want in one place. In London the shops are so far apart."**



ADVANCE FEATURES

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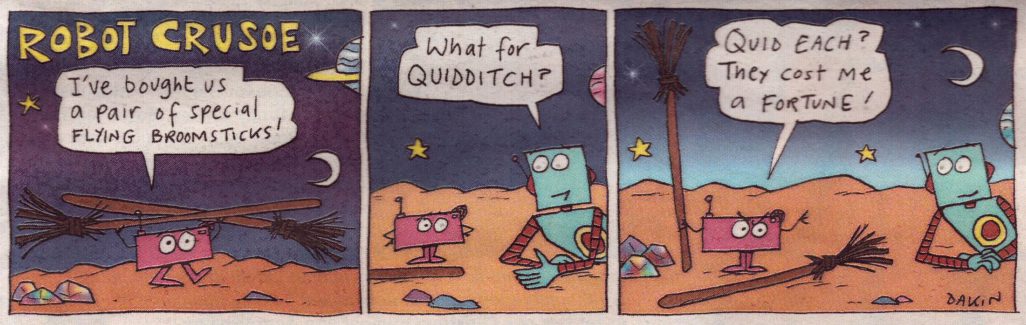



## f-mail

Send your letters, cartoons, jokes and drawings to: The Funday Times, PO Box 5073, Leighton Buzzard LU7 7GX Send your e-mail to: funday.times@sunday-times.co.uk

### COOL YULE

Pop into Disney Store for all your Christmas Disney gifts! Choose from a load of Disney santa characters – including Pooh and Mickey – and don't forget to look out for the Tigger and Eeyore sparkling Christmas stockings.

You can even get to see Tigger and Pooh singing and dancing to Christmas classics on a Disney singing sleigh. Disney Store is so excited about Christmas that it is giving the star f-mail writer £100 worth of Disney Store vouchers.

The other f-mailers will receive £30 worth of Disney Store vouchers.

Why did the witch keep turning people into Mickey Mouse?
She was having Disney spells!

How do you catch a squirrel?
Climb up a tree and act like a nut!

**Alex Shearn, 10, Leeds**

What did one tomato say to the other tomato?
You go ahead, I'll ketchup!

What type of vegetable plays snooker?
A cue-cumber!

**James Iles, Banbury**

**Dear f-mail, I have thought of some useless inventions:**

- water-proof tea bags
- the one-piece jigsaw
- a dictionary with an index
- an inflatable dartboard
- parachutes that open on impact

**Lucinda Gulshan, 11, London**

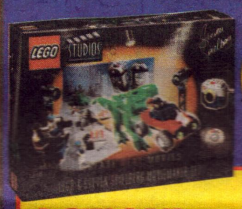
1

## YULE TOONS

Cartoon Network is full of festive surprises. Catch Cartoon Christmas Party, which kicks off tomorrow with a week of seasonal specials, including Yogi's First Christmas. To add to the fun we've got a wicked widescreen TV and DVD player to give away.

**To win, tell us the name of Yogi's sidekick.**

Mark you entry TOP TOONS.

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## ACTION!

**Wannabe directors will love the Lego & Steven Spielberg Moviemaker Sets [£159.99], which allow you to create your own film! Build the story, catch the action on camera and then edit the final footage on your PC. Cool stuff. We have three sets to give away.**

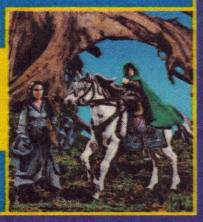
To enter, tell us what E.T. stands for.

**Mark your entry FLICK IT.**

9

## SWORD PLAY

To mark the release of the movie, we're giving away 10 Lord Of The Rings/Tolkien prize packages, each containing a 15cm action figure twinset, a deluxe horse & rider set, and a copy of The Hobbit board game.



**To enter, tell us what kind of creature Frodo is.**

Mark you entry LORD.

FUNDAY

# WIN IT!

**COMPETITION ADDRESS** Send answers to all competitions to us at: The Funday Times, PO Box 5073, Leighton Buzzard LU95 1AY. **Competition deadline:** December 28

You can e-mail your competition answers to: funday.comps@sunday-times.co.uk
Sorry, but only one e-mail per entrant will be accepted.

## 2 STOCKING TREATS

Take a dip into these tasty Chupa Chups Christmas stockings and pick out all manner of seriously suckable sweets, including XXL super-sour lollipops, Crazy Dips, The Simpsons and Butt Ugly Martians bubblegum lollies. Funday has 12 stockings to give away.

**To win, tell us the name of Homer's boss.**

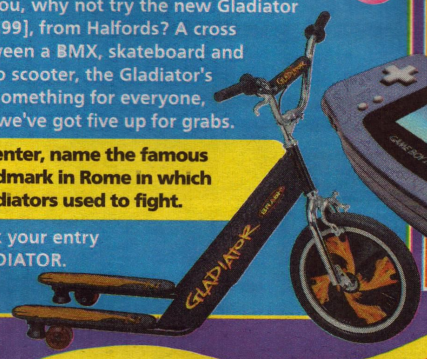
Mark you entry CHUP.

## 3 STREET WHEELS

If you can't decide which extreme sport is for you, why not try the new Gladiator [£99.99], from Halfords? A cross between a BMX, skateboard and micro scooter, the Gladiator's got something for everyone, and we've got five up for grabs.

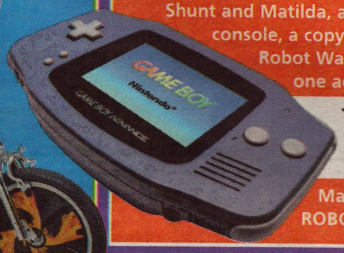
**To enter, name the famous landmark in Rome in which gladiators used to fight.**

Mark your entry GLADIATOR.




## 4 BASHIN' BOLTS

Robot Wars has crashed the Funday party! Two winners will receive two radio-controlled robots, Shunt and Matilda, a Nintendo Game Boy Advance console, a copy of the brand new GBA game, Robot Wars – Advanced Destruction and one action toy replica each.



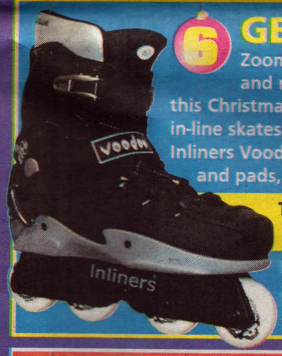

**To enter, tell us who presents Robot Wars.**

Mark your entry ROBOT.

# 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

Enjoy a festive feast with Funday's bumper 12 days of Christmas competitions! Send your separate answers to the competition address above, with your name, age, address, and mark each entry as shown. Enter all 12 and yule have more chances of winning!

## 6 GET IN-LINE




Zoom around the kitchen table and really annoy your mum this Christmas with these super-speedy in-line skates. We have seven pairs of Inliners Voodoo skates, plus helmet and pads, to give away.

**To win, tell us what sort of animal a skate is.**

Mark you entry LINE UP and send us your shoe size.

## 7 KYLIE'S CALLED

If it's time to upgrade your mobile make sure it's top of the pops! We've got four Kylie-covered Nokia 3310 prepaid mobiles from a new range of mobile phone fascias from Urban Icon to give away.

**To enter, tell us the name of Kylie's famous singing sister.**

Mark your entry NUMBER ONE.

## 8 JUMP AROUND

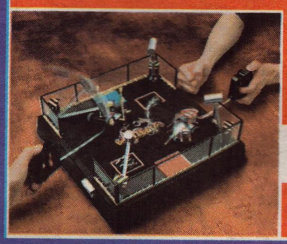
Bounce for joy this Christmas on the hi-tech Razor Airgo pogo stick from Re creation. Its high-pressure air-ram cylinder allows its jumping jockey to get some seriously big air! We've got six Razor Airgos to give away.

**To enter, tell us which marsupial is a top jumper.**

Mark your entry BOUNCY.

## 10 GOT A BOT?

Here's one battle you won't want to lose, particularly if you're a fan of BattleBots. From the Jakks Pacific Road Champs, we've got nine BattleBots BattleBox Deluxes, Metal Mechanics and Spinsbots sets to give away.



**To win, name Dr Who's robot dog.**

Mark you entry BATTLE.

## 11 THINK PINK

With one of the 11 gadgetgirl stationery sets Funday has to give away, there's no excuse for being disorganised. Each set includes a pink suede organiser, a pink suede notebook, a picture frame and photo album made out of, you guessed it, pink suede!

**To enter, tell us what the primary colours are.**

Mark your entry PINK.

## 12 FESTIVE FLICKS

Christmas is a perfect excuse to put your feet up and watch some great seasonal movies. Funday has eight sets of three top flicks to give away on DVD, thanks to 20th Century Fox Home Entertainment – Miracle On 34th Street, Anastasia and the classic A Christmas Carol.

**To enter, name the grumpy character in A Christmas Carol.**

Mark your entry BAH HUMBUG.

Normal TNL competition rules apply to all Funday Times competitions

Get into the Christmas spirit with our amazing prizes this week!

# FUNDAY SPORT

## JONAH LOMU

When it comes to rugby stars, they don't come much bigger than New Zealand's Jonah Lomu. Funday Sport talks to the famous man mountain

*Hi Jonah, you're a massive 1.96m tall, are the rest of your family as big?*

Some are even bigger! My younger brothers, John and Talanoa, are getting close to overtaking me. Everyone expects them to play rugby but I think that's unfair. I say to them: "If you're going to play rugby, do it because you enjoy it – not because someone is putting pressure on you to play." But of all the family, my mum is the one to watch out for! If I'm in trouble, she'll chase me round. One thing I've learned is, don't argue with mum!

*When did you start playing rugby?*

When I was about 14, which I guess is quite late. I was playing basketball and when I slam-dunked the ball, I would tear the ring off the backboard! The school rugby coach saw me and asked me to come down and try out for the team.

*When you made your debut in 1994, you were the youngest player ever selected to play for New Zealand, how did it feel?*

I loved it – and I wanted more! As we say in the New Zealand team, once you're an All Black, you're always an All Black. It's so hard to describe what it's like to pull on your country's shirt. You're the guy that millions of boys and girls look up to. That's a feeling money can't buy. And, yes, I still get nervous about four days before a game!

*How do you chill out?*

Music and cars. I love drag racing. The faster I travel and the louder the stereo, the happier I am.

*What's your in-car stereo like then?*

Well, I'll give you an idea of how loud it is. A jumbo-jet takes off at 148 decibels and I have a couple of stereos that go louder than that. We have competitions we call sound-offs. The idea is to get the stereo as loud as you can in 10 seconds. But you can't sit in the car itself – you have to stand at least 10m away and turn up the volume from there with a remote control. You still have to wear ear-plugs and you can actually see the whole car vibrating!

Jonah's new video, Jonah – A Living Rugby Legend, is out now [on video and DVD] from Freemantle Home Entertainment

## SPORT NEWS

Funday picks out the best of this week's sporting action

### Wednesday Third Test, India v England

Following their disastrous start in India, Nasser Hussain's young guns will hope to improve in the third and final test in Bangalore. The side has come in for criticism for its poor batting and fielding but credit is due to India's spin bowler, Anil Kumble, who took 6 for 81, in the first Test. Watch live action and highlights on Sky Sports 2.

### Wednesday Olympia international show jumping championships

Roll up to Olympia this week and catch some big horses, big riding names and big jumps. There's a four-wheeled driving contest, a dog agility competition and a Shetland pony grand national. The championships run from December 19-23. For more info call 0870 733 0733 or go to www.olympiashowjumping.com

## GET TRUCKING

Get behind the wheel of a 20-tonne, 18-wheeled truck and race around the United States in the new PS2 racer, 18 Wheeler American Pro Trucker.

The fantastic game boasts five different drivers, two-player split screen "versus mode", multiple camera angles, a twangin' country music soundtrack and some of the biggest race action around.

Acclaim is offering one reader a PS2 console and a copy of the game.

Plus, 10 runners-up will win a copy of the game.

To enter, tell us which American state Nashville's in.

Mark your entry TRUCK and send it, with your name, age and address, to the competition address on page 11.

PICTURES: REUTERS/JUDA NGWENYA/IAN HODGSON, ALLSPORT

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